

12 October 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: National Intelligence Steering Group Meeting,
8 October 1976

1. Representatives attending the meeting were Mr. Richard Lehman, Chairman; Mr. Harold Saunders, INR; Dr. Sayre Stevens, CIA; and [REDACTED]

2. Mr. Lehman informed the Group of the National Foreign Intelligence Board's desire to have more national intelligence submitted for NFIB consideration. No new categories of intelligence production will be submitted, but some Interagency Intelligence Memoranda and other papers will be submitted on a case-by-case basis. All National Intelligence Estimates and National Intelligence Advisory Memoranda will continue to be put before NFIB. Under these new guidelines, two IIMs, "Prospects for Soviet Interference With US Satellites" and "Implications of Recent PRC Military Activity in the Taiwan Strait," will be submitted to NFIB in the near future. An advance copy of the notification to NFIB of the IIM on interference with satellites was distributed to Steering Group members.

[REDACTED]

4. Mr. Whitman, National Intelligence Officer for the USSR, informed the Group of a request from the NSC Staff for a background study on Eastern Europe to focus on the economic outlook and political consequences. The purpose would be to discover areas of opportunity and leverage for the US. Mr. Whitman had, before receiving this request, already commissioned work on the economies

[REDACTED]

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

of Eastern Europe by a consultant, with the result that research on the economic section of the paper is for all practical purposes underway. On the political section, Mr. Packman, INR, noted that a number of similar projects are being pursued and wished to seek clarification of the request before committing INR to do the drafting. Mr. Packman and Mr. Whitman will confer further on this project.

5. Mr. Lehman noted that it is no longer possible to adhere to the previous agreement among the members of the Intelligence Community that they would not attempt an estimate of Soviet military intentions until after NIE 11-3/8-76 was completed. The commissioning of NSSM-246 requires that such an estimate be produced by December 1st. Because all members of the Intelligence Community have published their individual views on this subject, contributions will not be requested. Mr. Whitman will serve as the drafting officer, and Mr. Lehman will be the chairman, with NFIB consideration in mid-November.

6. Mr. Saunders proposed to the Group that a committee of experts be assembled to survey the Intelligence Community's ability to estimate the Middle Eastern military balance, to identify any areas of analysis where the methodological approaches are not as sophisticated as we would like, and to call in experts from the private sector to see if new dimensions could be added to the Community's efforts in those areas. Mr. David Blee, the National Intelligence Officer for the Middle East, will assemble such a group to begin the process. No effort will be made to produce a publication -- though one is not precluded -- but rather to get a process going that will allow the intelligence analysts, policymakers, analysts in the private sector, and operational officers working together. The object is both to improve future intelligence products and to prepare the Intelligence Community to support US negotiators in any future Middle East arms supply or peace negotiations.



Executive Officer
National Intelligence

25X1

25X1

[Redacted] am (12 Oct 76)

Distribution:

Original - File: Steering Group

1 - @ Steering Group Member

1 - D/DCI/IC

1 - DDCI

1 - D/DCI/NI

1 - A//EO/DCI/NI

1 - EO/DCI/NI Chrono

1 - RI

S E C R E T

25X1

Approved For Release 2004/05/13 : CIA-RDP91M00696R000200020021-0

Next 3 Page(s) In Document Exempt

Approved For Release 2004/05/13 : CIA-RDP91M00696R000200020021-0